non-school going children in the age group of 6 to 14 years is 80 million;

(b) if so, whether Government confirms this figure;

(c) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

(d) the number of schools or classes required to be introduced in the country for such children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) According to the Draft Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) circulated by the Planning Commission in May, 2001, it was stated that out of approximately 200 million children in the age group 6-14 years only 120 million are in schools. However, as per the latest figures available in the Selected Educational Statistics, brought out by this Ministry for the year 2000-01, out of the projected child population of 19.2 crores in the age group 6-14, 15.7 crores have been enrolled in schools.

According to an estimate prepared by the Government under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), there would be a requirement of 11.35 lakh additional class rooms in the next 10 years for 100% enrolment (allowing for a class room for every teacher in primary/upper primary schools and a room for the Head Master in upper primary school).

Supreme Court order on mid-day meal scheme

416. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has given threat to stop Central funds to State Governments for failing to provide cooked mid-day meals for primary school children;

(b) if so, whether the Court gave its final verdict on this issue on 9th September, 2002;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of State Governments in this regard; and

(d) whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Centre for implementation of the scheme as proposed by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No final judgement has been passed on 9th September 2002. However, in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2002 filed by People's Union for Civil Liberties *v/s* Union of India and others the Hon'ble Supreme Court have passed an order on 29.10.2002 directing, *inter alia*, the States to respond promptly to the correspondences of Commissioners appointed by the Hon'ble Court; translate and display the order of the court on all Gram Panchayats, school buildings and Fair Price Shops and give wide publicity on All India Radio and Doordarshan; prevent deaths due to starvation or malnutrition etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Central Government have allocated foodgrains on the basis of enrolment figures supplied by States/UTs. In addition, admissible transportation charges are being reimbursed to State/district agencies. The Government has been constantly urging the States/UTs, currently not providing cooked meals, to implement a cooked meal programme.

Hiring historians for writing textbooks

417. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give up hiring historians and sponsoring or publishing textbooks and hand over the same to the experts and the NCERT;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The Central Government does not publish any textbooks and hence the question of hiring historians by the Government for writing textbooks does not arise.